



Dear Citizens,

My two goals for law enforcement are to protect our citizens from our most violent criminals and to get communities the resources they need to overcome longtime social challenges. Of the many responsibilities of government, few outweigh these goals. My administration has been focused on creating long-term solutions to Baltimore's public safety issues, and we are beginning to see some results.

In this installment of The Dixon Report, I will update you on the central pieces of my crime reduction strategy, which our police department has put into action. It is built around the following themes: Targeted Enforcement, Community Engagement, and Building Strong Partnerships.

**Targeted Enforcement:**

Police Officers are receiving enhanced training in apprehension, interview and interrogation techniques. Additionally, officers are being held accountable for making timely and accurate reports to the State's Attorney's office. By doing so, we are keeping more criminals incarcerated and generating more intelligence about criminals still out on the streets.

On the streets, specialized squads are being beefed up to allow for greater coverage in high-crime neighborhoods. Homicide, Vice, SWAT and the Warrant Apprehension Task Force are vitally important to achieving our crime reduction goals, and it is important for them to be appropriately staffed. The efforts of these squads will also help ensure suspects are detained while awaiting trial, and ultimately increase incarceration rates.

What has led to a significant increase in gun seizures this year (2,122 firearms, which is 15% more than this time last year,) is a renewed focus on gun recovery and seizure. The Gun Tracing Task Force is charged with suppressing gun trafficking by targeting problem gun dealers and illegal secondary gun transfers. As police officers seize more and more firearms, the Task Force will be better able to rid us of those who are selling death on our city streets.

Acting Commissioner Frederick Bealefeld has been instrumental in overseeing the implementation of targeted enforcement. The recent drop in shootings is just one indication that the Police Department's activities are having an effect on criminals throughout the city. Those inclined to commit acts of violence know that the police are coming at them in new ways and with more support.

### **Community Engagement:**

Critical to the success of our crime fighting strategy is the cooperation between citizens and the police. They need to know and to trust each other. With a trusting, cooperative relationship in place, the thugs who make up the minority in our neighborhoods can be weeded out. The Police Department is engaging with communities with a number of different programs.

Citizens on Patrol – Experience has proven that a small group of concerned, dedicated citizens with the proper training, and the support of their community and law enforcement, can make a difference. That is the core of why Citizens on Patrol works. This year, more than 200 people have been trained in the best practices for creating and sustaining a viable Citizens on Patrol program. The training was designed to encourage participation and to exchange program information between COP attendees. Community partnerships were established during this training that will be used as a stepping-stone to improve the Baltimore Police Department's relationship with the communities they serve.

Community Safe Zone Project – The Baltimore Police Department has developed and implemented a neighborhood stabilization strategy called the Community Safe Zone project. The purpose of this project is to develop a well-rounded strategy that prevents drug related violence, restores community stability and promotes police/community relations in targeted distressed neighborhoods. The Community Safe Zone project is placed operationally into targeted neighborhoods for six week cycles and is applied through four consistent components:

- The redirection of non-residential traffic patterns
- The coordination of targeted city resources
- The organization and deployment of social service outreach teams
- The organization of police sponsored community events

Through these components, the Community Safe Zone project has become a catalyst that disrupts patterns of violence and provides long-term stability. In 2006, the International Association of Chiefs of Police recognized the Community Safe Zone project as an innovative best practices policing strategy. In 2007, the National Criminal Justice Association awarded the Community Safe Zone project as an outstanding criminal justice program. Through the coordination and cooperation of police officers, residents, city workers and an influx of resources, the Community Safe Zone project is a strong testament to the ability to establish dynamic change in distressed neighborhoods.

Adopt-A-Block – Each of the nine police districts identified three violent blocks (for a total of 27 block citywide) for increased foot patrols and community involvement. In concert with the Department's Crime Control Strategy; Adopt-A-Block is designed to decrease the occurrence of violent crime by increasing community support mechanisms and improving upon the lines of communications between the communities and police department. This will improve safety by assigning police officers to specific city blocks, where they will walk with community advocates to resolve neighborhood problems before they escalate.

### **Building Strong Partnerships:**

I am grateful to have partners in law enforcement who understand the problems we face. State's Attorney Pat Jessamy, who has been working on the issue of illegal guns for over a decade, is playing a pivotal role in keeping criminals off the streets. But she is not the only partner working to make Baltimore safer. We are fortunate to be working with state and federal agencies to implement some of our most effective crime fighting tools.

The Baltimore police department actively partners with Maryland EXILE, which is a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat gun crime that combines targeted enforcement of violent offenders and community action.

Maryland EXILE's Violent Repeat Offender Team meets regularly to identify some of the most violent individuals in Baltimore, including individuals who belong to violent gangs and those who have been charged with, or have been suspects in, shootings and murders. Some of these individuals have pending state gun, drug, or violent crime cases. Many are in violation of their parole or probation. Others have no pending charges but have lengthy criminal histories. This team determines the most effective strategy for arresting and detaining each individual.

EXILE is working with the Mayor's office to conduct "call-in" meetings for repeat offenders throughout the city. BPD and Maryland Parole and Probation identify felons in specific target areas who are on parole or probation for violent crimes or firearms offenses. At these meetings, the Maryland EXILE team clearly communicates the message that these individuals will go straight back to jail if they commit another offense. Community leaders and ex-offenders also address the group, offering housing, educational, and job placement assistance.

In 2007, Maryland EXILE was recognized by the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods for Outstanding Overall Partnerships and Taskforces.

As we keep moving forward, I am confident that these partnerships will create lasting change on the streets of Baltimore.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place

to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon  
Mayor  
Baltimore

## **Sign Up for the Mayor's Neighborhood Newsletter**

*News for Communities from Communities*

In an effort to continue our close work with neighborhoods on public safety initiatives and strategies, Mayor Sheila Dixon has given the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods & Constituent Services the task of creating a public safety newsletter; one that is created for communities and by communities. One of the recurring themes that Mayor Dixon and the Neighborhood Liaisons hear in community meetings is the need to receive information from the City on public safety strategies and a means to share best practices being implemented in various neighborhoods with regard to crime.

The proposed newsletter will be a forum for communities to share those best practices and for the City to provide information about initiatives such as Operation Crime Watch, Clergy on Patrol, and others. It will require the collaboration of community groups like yours, the Police Department, the Mayor's Office, and our other public safety partners.

We are really excited to be able to send out our first newsletter. In order to receive it, you will need to send a blank email to the following address: [NeighborhoodNews-Subscribe@lists.baltimorecity.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodNews-Subscribe@lists.baltimorecity.gov). You will receive a confirmation email once you have signed up.

The Mayor believes that community engagement is critical to the success of taking back our neighborhoods, so I urge you to please work with us in sharing and showing your neighbors that together, we can make a difference.

## **9-11 Run to Remember**

*5K Run and 1 Mile Walk*

**Sep 11, 2007**

Baltimore Police Headquarters  
601 East Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD

7:00 a.m.

**Entry Fees**

\$25 if postmarked before Sept 1  
\$30 thru Sept 10 (do not mail after 9/3)  
\$35 Race Day

\$5 Discount for all law enforcement and fire agency employees.

For entry form and additional registration information, visit the [9-11 Run to Remember](#) homepage.

## **Baltimore Farmers' Market**

*Sundays Under the JFX*

Baltimore Farmers' Market:

Everyone is invited to enjoy this one-of-a-kind shopping experience at economical prices. While strolling the market, guests can revel at the sight of the large quantity of the freshest fruits and vegetables, eggs, a variety of breads from Maryland area farmers, and delight in homemade treats. In addition, food vendors add spice to the market with cultural cuisine, popular pit beef sandwiches, pastries, cheeses, and gourmet treats.

Sundays, May 6 - December 23, 2007  
8am to sellout, approximately noon

Holliday and Saratoga streets underneath the Jones Falls Expressway

## **Activities for the Whole Family**

**Special Events All Around Baltimore**

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



**TV25: The True View of Baltimore**

You have received this email because you have requested email updates from the Dixon Report, or you have been identified as someone who may be interested. If you no longer wish to receive these updates, simply send a blank email to [dixonreport-unsubscribe@lists.baltimorecity.gov](mailto:dixonreport-unsubscribe@lists.baltimorecity.gov).